GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3512
ANSWERED ON:16.04.2002
GIVING INFORMATION REGARDING EARTHQUAKES BY COMMUNICATION SATELLITES
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Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scientists have recently found out that communication satellites are giving more information relating to earthquakes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the scientists have also predicted that India, Pakistan and other countries adjoining the Himalayan region may witness major earthquake anytime; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT)

(a) Sir, a number of new technologies, which find application in the study of earthquakes, are based on the satellite communication systems.

(b) Global positioning systems one of the important tool for monitoring of crustal deformation, are already in use at several locations in the country. Also, efforts have been initiated to understand the relation between low frequency radio emission and occurrence of earthquakes.

(c) At present there is no scientific technique available any where in the World, which can predict earthquakes with reasonable degree of accuracy in terms of space, size and time. However, as per the seismic zoning map of the country published by Bureau of Indian Standards, Himalaya region falls under Zone V, considered to be most severe zone. The possibility of occurrence of large/great earthquake can not be ruled out in this region.

(d) The Department of Science & Technology has a full fledged programme on Himalayan Seismicity.The emphasis of this programme is to understand the earthquake source process, with ultimate goal of earthquake disaster mitigation. Under the Jai Vigyan Technology Mission Project, launched in 2000-2001, the seismological network is being strengthened in Himalayan region. Recently, a proposal to set up an Earthquake Risk Evaluation Centre has been approved by the Govt., which is being located in IMD, Delhi. The principal mandate of the center is to collate and integrate the various data sets and prepare the site specific risk maps.